

**WITHOUT A HOME**  
**By Mark Parra, Mental Health Analyst II**



On June 6<sup>th</sup>, LACDMH hosted an exclusive screening of the film documentary *Without a Home* during the Countywide Housing Specialists meeting at 695 Vermont. The screening generated comment for the filmmaker and stimulated a robust discussion regarding permanent supportive housing and services for homeless individuals experiencing mental health issues.

The filmmaker, Rachel Fleischer, and producer, Joanna Adler, presented *Without A Home*, and provided brief background regarding the genesis of the film project. Rachel, a Los Angeles native, cited the need to be part of the solution for addressing homelessness in a city where over 50,000 persons are living on the streets or in shelters on any given night. Through this project she embarked on an extraordinary four-year journey entering into the lives of six homeless individuals and families as they struggle to find homes, get clean and sober and to survive. Rachel interviewed each person, and through engaging with them, deeply explored the challenges associated with assisting each subject on the journey toward achieving housing and self-sufficiency.

Those in attendance provided meaningful comment, feedback, and appreciation for this powerful testimonial to homelessness in Los Angeles and the insights it provided. To arrange a screening or find out more about *Without a Home*:  
<http://www.withoutahomefilm.com/>

Ms. Fleischer would also like to encourage interested individuals to further become involved in the fight to solve homelessness through ***What Can I Do?***, a campaign to raise awareness & compassion about homelessness through art & social action: [www.whatcanidocampaign.org](http://www.whatcanidocampaign.org).